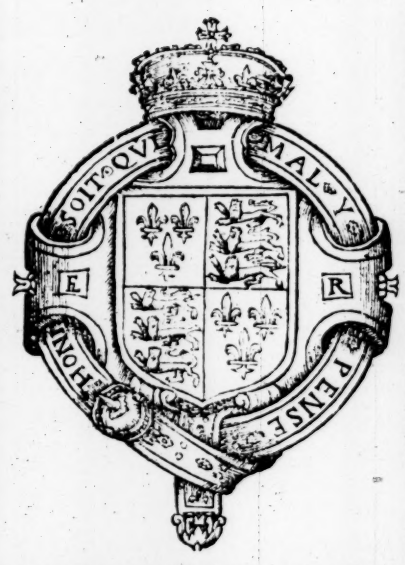


ELIZABETH by the grace of God Queene of England, Fraunce, and Ireland, defendour of the fayth. &c. To all and ſingular Archbyſhops, Byſhops, Deanes, Archdeacons, & other Officials perſõs Uicares, Curates, Miniſters, and to all other ſpirituall perſõs whatſoeuer they be, and alſo to all & ſingular Juſtices of peace, Maiors, Shireffes, Bayliffes, Conſtables, Hedboroughes, Churchwardens, Tythyngmen, and all other our Officers miniſters & ſubiectes, to whõ theſe preſentes ſhal come, greetyng. Wheras we vpõ humble ſute made vnto vs by diuers of our Nobilitie, and many others of great credite, & ſpecially at the moſt humble deſire and zealous ſute of the Maior & Citizens of our Citie of Bathe, haue giuen licence to new builde and erect one Church, vpon the foundations of the late Abbey Church of the late diſſolued Monaſtery of Bathe, for the receauyng of ſuch of the Nobilitie, and other our ſubiectes as reſort or ſhall from tyme to tyme haue occaſions to reſorte to that Citie, there to haue cõuenient place to heare Sermons, and other diuine ſeruice, which cannot cõueniently be in any other Church within our ſayd Citie, for the ſmalenes of the rowmes & buildinges of the ſame. And heretofore for lacke of cõuenient rowmes in the now Churches within our ſayd Citie, the Sermons haue ben made in the open market place there, beyng not mete nor conuenient for ſuch purpoſe, which greater Church cannot be of new buylded and finiſhed without greater ſũmes of money thẽ the Citizẽs there be able to beare or ſuſtayne. And albeit they ſhew themſelues very zealous, and do employ great trauayles and charges therin, yet are they not hable to finiſh the ſame, therfore haue made their further humble ſute vnto vs to licence them and theyr aſſignes & deputies to receaue the gratuities of our ſubiectes within this our Realme of England and Wales for the finiſhyng of the ſayd Church.

Know you therfore that we acceptyng very well of this zealous entent & good meanyng of the ſayd Maior & Citizens & tendryng their ayde and helpe towardes the new buildyng of the ſayd Church, & alſo towardes the enlargyng & betteryng of an Hoſpital within that Citie of Bathe called S. Jhones, there erected for the releſe and cõfort of certaine ſicke & diſeaſed poore perſõs that reſort thether, from diuers partes of this our Realme are pleaſed & contẽted, and by theſe preſentes for vs our heyres and ſucceſſours do giue licẽce & free libertie vnto the ſayd Maior & Citizens of our ſayd Citie of Bathe & their aſſigne or aſſignes, deputie or deputies bearers of this our licence & graũt or the duplicate, or true copy hereof duryng the ſpace of vij. yeares, next commyng to aſke gather receiue & take the gratuitie, gift, almes, and deuotion, of all and euery or any our louyng ſubiectes dwellers within this our Realme of England & Wales, aſwell within the liberties as without for the buildyng & erecting of the ſayd Church and Hoſpital.

Wherfore we will and commaunde you the ſayd Parſons, Uicars, and Curates, & all other aforeſayd that you and euery of you at ſuch tyme and tymes, as the ſayd Maior and Citizens or any of their aſſigne or aſſignes deputie or deputies, or any of them bearers or bearer hereof or the duplicate hereof, ſhall repayre vnto your Churches and other places to aſke and gather the gratuities, giftes, almes, and deuotiõ of our louyng ſubiectes or any of them, that ye permit and ſuffer the ſayd Maior and Citizens & theyr aſſigne or aſſignes deputy or deputies ſo to do, without your let or interruption and to declare the tenor and effect of theſe our letters patentes vnto our louyng ſubiectes exhortyng them to extend to ſo honorable a worke their gratuities and charitable giftes and almes, redoundyng greatly to the glory of almighty God, and the great renowne of this our Realme, and the eaſe and commoditie of our louyng ſubiectes.

And we further ſtraitly charge and cõmaunde all and euery hygh Conſtable of the hundredes Hedboroughes and other Conſtables, Churchwardens, and Tythyngmen that vpon the open readyng of theſe our letters patentes or the duplicate or true copy therof in any Church or other open place or places what ſoeuer, to collect and gather all the giftes and deuotiõs of all our louyng ſubiectes, where ſoeuer the ſame ſhalbe read or declared and what ſumme or ſummes, ſoeuer ſhalbe ſo leuied and receaued to be deliuered to the vſe of the ſayd Maior and Citizens for the purpoſe aforeſayd, and cauſe the ſame ſummes to be endorced vpõ theſe preſentes or the duplicate or true copie hereof, to the entent it may playnly appeare what hath bene collected towardes the erectyng of the ſayd Church and Hoſpitall, within this our Realme of Englãd and Wales. In witnes wherof we haue cauſed theſe our letters to be made patentes, witnes our ſelfe at Weſtminſter the xiij. day of Aprill, the xv. yeare of our raigne.

*per breue de priuato Sigillo.* *Dupl.* Powle.

God ſaue the Queene.

*Imprinted at London by Iohn Daye.*